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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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ENCOURAGING HAWAII'S ELECTRIC UTILITIES TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM  
FOR DONATIONS OF EXCESS ENERGY FROM PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS.

1 WHEREAS, residents of Hawaii recognize that the cost of  
2 living in paradise comes at the expense of their wallets; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the costs of housing, food, and energy in Hawaii  
5 are among the highest in the United States; and  
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7 WHEREAS, in 2013, Hawaii imported 91 percent of its energy  
8 and in 2014, Hawaii had the highest electricity prices in the  
9 nation due to its isolated location and dependence on petroleum;  
10 and  
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12 WHEREAS, the United States Energy Information  
13 Administration reports that in October 2015, the energy prices  
14 per kilowatt hour in Hawaii were 28.22 cents for residents,  
15 25.92 cents for commercial owners, and 22.19 cents for  
16 industrial owners, while the respective national energy prices  
17 averaged 12.73 cents, 10.70 cents, and 6.88 cents; and  
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19 WHEREAS, alternative sources of energy are increasingly  
20 popular in Hawaii; and  
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22 WHEREAS, the amount of Hawaii's renewable energy generated  
23 by solar energy increased from only 0.8 percent in 2007 to 30  
24 percent by 2014; and  
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26 WHEREAS, the use of photovoltaic panels to produce solar  
27 energy allows residents to defray the costs of energy use; and  
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29 WHEREAS, the use of photovoltaic panels in Hawaii increased  
30 over time, with 54,069 photovoltaic systems installed as of  
31 2015, providing a capacity of 339 megawatts; and  
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1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's progressive energy policies support  
2 photovoltaic systems and provide incentives for residents to  
3 utilize photovoltaic energy, such as state tax incentives or  
4 feed-in tariffs that permit fixed rates for renewable  
5 electricity for owners of small renewable energy projects; and  
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7 WHEREAS, net energy metering allows residential customers  
8 to obtain full retail value for excess solar energy fed into the  
9 grid, transforming unused energy into a monetary credit against  
10 future energy bills; and  
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12 WHEREAS, the rising cost of electric energy, which is a  
13 necessity for daily operations, may force nonprofit  
14 organizations and schools to cut programs, job positions, or  
15 wages when electrical bills consume greater portions of annual  
16 operating budgets; and  
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18 WHEREAS, nonprofit organizations and schools often struggle  
19 with conducting business or meeting student needs and are forced  
20 to rely on uncertain grants and outside funding despite the  
21 necessity of their services to Hawaii; and  
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23 WHEREAS, nonprofit organizations and schools could  
24 reallocate funds to other critical areas, such as personnel and  
25 service provision, if their energy costs were defrayed; now,  
26 therefore,  
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
29 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
30 Session of 2016, that the State's electric utilities are  
31 encouraged to implement a program where credits from excess  
32 energy received from residential photovoltaic customers may be  
33 donated to nonprofit organizations or schools for their  
34 electricity bills; and  
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# H.R. NO. 9

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Public Utilities  
3 Commission; Presidents and Chief Executive Officers of Hawaiian  
4 Electric Company, Inc., Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc., and  
5 Maui Electric Company, Limited; and the President and Chief  
6 Executive Officer of Kauai Island Utility Cooperative.

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8  
9 OFFERED BY:



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